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GONIC MAN AND DOVER WOMAN PLEAD GUILTY IN COUNTERFEITING CASE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today **announced** that Jeffrey Goodell, 22, of Gonic, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty to one count of manufacturing United States currency, and that Christine Hudon, 24, of Dover, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty to one count of passing the counterfeit United States currency at several Dover, New Hampshire, area stores last . The court set September 30, 2003, as the date for Hudon's sentencing and October 2, 2003, as the date for Goodell's sentencing.

Goodell and Hudon were indicted on January 8, 2003 and charged with, respectively, one count of violating federal law by manufacturing counterfeit obligations and securities of the United States and one count of passing the counterfeit currency. The counterfeit notes were produced on a scanner/printer purchased at a local office supply store. Goodell, Hudon and others passed the notes by making small purchases and offering the notes as payment. They then would use the genuine currency received as change for additional purchases.

Goodell and Hudon each face a maximum statutory sentence of 15 years. Under the federal sentencing guidelines, Goodell is likely facing a sentence of approximately one year, as well as a period of supervised release following his incarceration. Hudon is likely facing a sentence of probation. Goodell and Hudon will also be made to pay restitution to the stores victimized by their conduct.

United States Attorney Tom Colantuono stated: "The technology of producing counterfeit United States currency has changed from the significant expense and difficult process of offset printing to the relatively inexpensive and easier process of computer generation. The availability of high powered computers at relatively low cost allows criminals to produce and pass counterfeit currency in small quantities at a time in an effort to avoid detection. The cumulative loss to our business community is significant, however, and my office will continue to prosecute those who engage in any method of counterfeiting."

The Dover Police Department and the United States Secret Service investigated this case. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.